

SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Several communities within the Humboldt/Del Norte County area could be affected as a result of management decisions following from the new directions contained in this joint plan. Communities that are principally affected by Redwood National and State Parks operations and visitor activities are the town of Orick in Humboldt County and the Klamath and Hiouchi communities in Del Norte County. Other communities that are affected include the cities of Arcata, McKinleyville, and Trinidad in Humboldt County and Crescent City in Del Norte County. The reservations and trust lands of several American Indian tribes are also in these two counties. These include the Yurok Reservation, which extends along the Klamath River (the lands within 1 mile of both sides of the river from the Pacific Ocean to 43 miles upstream) straddling both south-central Del Norte County and north-central Humboldt County, and the Hoopa Valley Reservation, which is along the Trinity River in north-central

Humboldt County. Also, several rancherias are located in both counties.

POPULATION

Population change for the counties and cities in the affected region can be put into perspective by comparing such change with the state's population, which increased from 23.7 million in 1980 to 29.8 million in 1990 — or 25.7% for an average annual rate of growth (AARG) of 4.7%. As shown in [table 15](#), population growth in Del Norte County was lower than the state growth rate during the 1980s, increasing from 18,217 in 1980 to 23,460 persons in 1990, for an average annual growth rate of about 2.6%. Most of the growth was in unincorporated areas. In contrast, population growth in Humboldt County was very modest, rising from 108,514 in 1980 to 119,118 in 1990 for an average annual growth rate of only 0.9%, which suggests that natural increase accounted for most of this growth during the period. As shown in the table, the population in Crescent City increased modestly during the 1980s, increasing from 3,075 in 1980

TABLE 15: POPULATION CHANGES IN THE AFFECTED REGION^a

Location	1980	1990	1995	%Change 1980–90	AARG 1980–90	%Change 1990–95	AARG 1980–90
Del Norte County	18,217	23,460	28,626	28.8%	2.6%	22.0%	4.0%
Klamath	1,418	827	n/a	-41.7%	-5.2%	n/a	n/a
Crescent City (city limits) ^b	3,075	4,380	3,897	42.4%	3.6%	-11.0%	-2.4%
Humboldt County	108,514	119,118	125,500	9.8%	0.9%	5.4%	1.0%
Trinidad	379	362	360	-4.5%	-0.9%	-0.6%	-0.1%
McKinleyville	7,772	10,749	n/a	38.3%	3.3%	n/a	n/a
Arcata	12,340	15,197	16,000	23.2%	2.1%	5.3%	1.0%
Eureka (city limits)	24,153	27,025	27,500	11.9%	1.1%	1.8%	0.4%

SOURCE: The U.S. Census for 1980 and 1990; California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.

a. Percentage change is based on average annual (compounded) rate of growth.

b. Excludes Pelican Bay State Prison, which was annexed to the city subsequent to the 1990 decennial census, with a population in 1996 of 4,408 persons for a total city population of about 8,300.

to 4,380 in 1990, whereas the Klamath community population declined from 1,418 persons to 827 persons. Population information is unavailable for the Hiouchi community. However, the Smith River-Hiouchi-Gasquet area appears to be growing based on observed increases in new residential construction, which is consistent with growth patterns indicated by the census data for unincorporated areas of Del Norte County. The city of Arcata and McKinleyville grew rapidly during the 1980–90 period, while the city of Eureka grew slowly and Trinidad's population declined modestly. Census data is unavailable for Orick; however, the California Department of Finance estimated the population at 650 persons in 1989.

Since 1990 the state and the counties in the affected region have undergone modest population growth, reflecting the general slowdown in economic activity resulting from defense cut-backs at the state level and continuing decreases in timber harvests and related manufacturing activity at the regional level. Nonetheless, there have been increases in other sectors in the regional economy, such as state and local government (particularly in Del Norte County with the opening of the Pelican Bay state corrections facility) and tourism-related activity that has stimulated the retail trade and services sectors. According to the California Department of Finance, Del Norte County had a fairly rapid rate of growth, increasing from 24,360 to 28,626 persons between 1990 and the end of 1995 or 22.0%. The Crescent City population (excluding the Pelican Bay Prison population) actually declined by 11.0% during the period.

Information is not available on population change between 1990 and 1995 for Klamath. Population growth in Humboldt County grew at a modest rate (5.4% total) between 1990 and 1995, increasing from 119,800 to 125,500 persons and reflecting the slow transition from a timber-based manufacturing economy to a more diversified economy with tourism becoming increasingly important. Population growth continued also at a modest rate in Arcata, increasing by a total of 5.3% between 1990 and 1995. Population growth was much more modest for the city of Eureka, which increased by only 1.8% during this five-year period. The city of Trinidad declined slightly between 1990 and

1995. There are no population figures available for Orick in this period, but recent school enrollment declines indicate that community's population probably declined during the early 1990s.

AREA HOUSING

Humboldt County

Housing units have been estimated for Humboldt County and incorporated cities therein as of January 1, 1996 by the state Department of Finance. **Table 16** summarizes housing information for Humboldt County, with more detailed data for Arcata, and Trinidad. Vacancy rates are low in Arcata but high in Trinidad and the entire county. In general, incorporated city vacancy rates are much lower than the overall unincorporated county vacancy rate of 13.0%, averaging 5.3%.

Del Norte County

Crescent City is the only incorporated city in Del Norte County, so housing unit estimates are presented for these two jurisdictions in **table 17**. Vacancy rates are moderately high in Crescent City and quite high for Del Norte County. Again, unincorporated areas have significantly higher vacancy rates than Crescent City.

ECONOMY

Per Capita Personal Income

Per capita personal income in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties is considerably below the California average, which was \$22,343 in 1994 (in current year dollars). For Humboldt County per capita personal income was \$18,105 in 1994. For Del Norte County per capita personal income was \$13,818 in 1994. In 1994 the share of personal income from transfer payments (i.e., income payments by governments and business to individuals and nonprofit institutions, for which they do not render current services) for the state was 16.3%. For Humboldt and Del Norte Counties these shares were much higher

TABLE 16: HUMBOLDT COUNTY HOUSING ESTIMATES (AS OF 1/1/96)

Jurisdiction	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Percent Vacant Housing Units
Total County	55,146	49,977	9.4%
Unincorporated Area	29,357	25,541	13.0%
Arcata	6,939	6,687	3.6%
Trinidad	204	173	15.2%
Other Incorporated	18,646	17,576	5.7%

TABLE 17: DEL NORTE COUNTY HOUSING ESTIMATES (AS OF 1/1/96)

Jurisdiction	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Percent Vacant Housing Units
Total County	10,274	9,020	12.2%
Unincorporated Area	8,371	7,260	13.3%
Crescent City	1,903	1,760	7.5%

at 24.1% and 31.3%, respectively, indicating the relatively poor economic conditions and distressed labor markets of the two-county region.

Employment

The two-county region can be characterized as being in a state of economic transition. Employment figures by county given in tables 18 and 19, illustrate the changes taking place. These counties have historically relied upon timber-based employment for direct jobs; however, timber resources have become considerably more scarce and subject to much greater regulation during the past decade or so. This has reduced the emphasis on logging, forest products processing, and related activities, and this trend will very likely continue for the foreseeable future.

Humboldt County employment increased 6.6% between 1989 and 1994 as shown in table 18. Farm employment decreased modestly during this five-year period, while agricultural services, including fishing and fish processing, increased substantially. Employment in the construction and manufacturing sectors grew at below county average rates, and these sectors have declined (modestly) as shares of the county total. This

reflects declines in timber industry activities, which is discussed below. Similar trends are also present in several related sectors, namely, transportation, public services, and wholesale trade, which declined in the 1989–94 period, most likely due to a reduction in timber-based product transportation and equipment purchases.

Also, mining declined to a small fraction of the employment level indicated for the earlier period. On the other hand, retail trade, the second largest sector, grew at nearly the rate for the county average, while the (largest) services sector with more than 28% of county employment in 1994, grew at nearly triple the overall rate of 17.1% between 1989 and 1994. The smaller finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) sector, with 5.6% of county employment in 1994, also increased substantially more than the average rate of 13.7% between the two benchmark years. For government, employment growth overall was modest, some 3.5%; however, this result masks the details, which show substantial declines in federal civilian and military shares of the total and an above average increase in the much larger share for state and local government employees.

TABLE 18: HUMBOLDT COUNTY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, 1989–94^a

Industry Sector	1989 Employment	Percent	1994 Employment	Percent	Percent Change 1989–94
Farm	1,396	2.3%	1,303	2.0%	-6.7%
Non-Farm	58,298	97.7%	62,309	98.0%	6.9%
Agricultural Services and Other ^b	1,472	2.5%	2,065	3.2%	40.3%
Mining	103	0.1%	18	>0.1%	-82.5%
Construction	3,589	6.0%	3,700	5.8%	3.1%
Manufacturing	7,345	12.3%	7,582	11.9%	3.2%
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	2,979	5.0%	2,571	4.0%	-13.7%
Wholesale Trade	2,159	3.6%	1,673	2.6%	-22.5%
Retail Trade	11,916	20.0%	12,546	19.7%	5.3%
FIRE ^c	3,153	5.3%	3,586	5.6%	13.7%
Services	15,391	25.8%	18,025	28.3%	17.1%
Government	10,191	17.1%	10,543	16.6%	3.5%
Federal Civilian	986	1.7%	847	1.3%	-14.1%
Military	844	1.4%	555	0.9%	-34.2%
State and Local	8,361	14.0%	9,141	14.4%	9.3%
Total	59,694	100.0%	63,612	100.0%	6.6%

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, unpublished computer printout, table CA25 & CA05.

a. Employment and earnings by place of work; includes wage and salary and proprietor categories.

b. Includes agricultural services, forestry, and fishing, hunting, and trapping.

c. FIRE includes finance, insurance, and real estate.

Del Norte County employment grew more rapidly overall than Humboldt County employment (although from a much smaller base) for a 24.3% increase, as shown in **table 19**. Construction and manufacturing both declined. In contrast, growth was strong in the retail trade, services, and FIRE sectors. State and local government employment grew most at 85.9% and accounted for more than half of the overall county increase in employment during the 1989–94 period. This was due to expanded operations at the state prison at Pelican Bay.

Note that California employment declined by about 1.3% over the 1989–94 period. Major

declines were in the construction and manufacturing sectors due to recessionary conditions during much of the period owing in part to military and aerospace cutbacks in response to defense spending cuts.

The level of unemployment in Humboldt County at 8.3% is near the average for the state, which in 1994 amounted to 7.8% of the labor force. For the year 1996 (through November) the unemployment rate in Humboldt County dropped to 7.7%. Del Norte County's unemployment rate was substantially higher at 12.3%.

TABLE 19: DEL NORTE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, 1989–94^a

Industry Sector	1989 Employment	Percent	1994 Employment	Percent	Percent Change 1989–94
Farm	356	4.5%	373	3.8%	4.8%
Non-Farm	7,504	95.5%	9,396	96.2%	25.1%
Agricultural Services and Other ^b	453	5.8%	655	6.7%	44.6%
Mining ^c	n/a	-	n/a	-	-
Construction	505	6.4%	406	4.2%	-19.6
Manufacturing	828	10.5%	558	5.7%	-32.6%
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	320	4.1%	342	3.5%	6.9%
Wholesale Trade	95	1.2%	119	1.2%	25.3%
Retail Trade	1,624	20.7%	1,994	20.4%	22.8%
FIRE ^d	357	4.5%	465	4.8%	30.35
Services	1,776	22.6%	2,219	22.7%	24.9%
Government	1,542	19.6%	2,636	4.8%	70.9%
Federal Civilian	163	2.1%	169	1.7%	3.7%
Military	95	1.2%	80	0.8%	-15.8%
State and Local	1,284	16.3%	2,387	24.4%	85.9%
Total	7,860	100.0%	9,769	100.0%	24.3%

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, unpublished computer printout, Table CA25 and CA05.

a. Employment and earnings by place of work; includes wage and salary and proprietor categories.

b. Includes agricultural services, forestry, and fishing, hunting, and trapping.

c. N/a refers to not available due to disclosure rules; however, estimates are included in totals.

d. FIRE includes finance, insurance, and real estate.

Timber Harvest Declines

The lumber and forest products industries of California's north coast has been centered in Humboldt County, which has traditionally led California counties in timber harvesting. Historical data are available (Martin O'Connell Associates 1991) on timber harvest in million board feet (MBF), which for Humboldt County exceeded 1 billion board feet for all years 1952–74. Following 1974 there was a

downward trend generally until the mid-1980s, at which time there was a brief period of resurgence. The early 1970s harvest of more than 1 billion board feet had slid to a bit less than half a billion board feet by the early 1990s. Employment changes in manufacturing, which consist primarily of activity in the lumber and wood products industries, provide another indicator of the decline in the influence of forest products in the region.

According to the same source, total manufacturing employment in Humboldt County declined from 10,413 jobs in 1969 to a low of 5,855 jobs in 1982 before turning around and increasing slowly to 7,582 jobs in 1994. During the 1980s when the decline in manufacturing employment was most pronounced, lumber and wood products industry employment (which represented about 75% of the total manufacturing employment) decreased from 5,400 jobs in 1980 to 4,900 jobs in 1989 or 9.3% in Humboldt County. The decline in the forest products industry was also felt in Del Norte County where a corresponding employment loss occurred in lumber and wood products manufacturing, but this decline was much more severe — from 1,450 workers in 1980 to about 500 workers in 1989 or 65.5%.

Generally, harvesting in the park protection zone has ranged from 25% to 59% of the total area harvested on private lands.

Commercial Beach Fishing

Commercial beach fishing is a relatively small but important component of the commercial fishing industry in the north coast region. According to the *1997 Humboldt County Economic and Demographic Almanac*, published by North Coast Almanacs, for the Eureka area, which runs from Fort Bragg to Crescent City, the total commercial fishing industry landings in 1995 amounted to 52.5 million pounds (total commercial catch of finfish), with a wholesale value estimated at about \$35 million. NPS information on commercial beach fishing for smelt and surf perch from Crescent City to Fields Landing in Humboldt County, which is based on California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) statistics, indicated port landings of 2.0 million pounds with a wholesale dollar value of \$700 thousand in 1995.

A major portion of the port landings of smelt and surf perch were caught in the immediate vicinity of the parks. The catch of fish reported by the state Department of Fish and Game originating from block 120, which extends from just above Mussel Point (north of the mouth of Redwood Creek) to Split Rock (south of the

Klamath River, or essentially all of Gold Bluffs Beach), amounted to 1.4 million pounds. The catch of fish originating from block 126, which extends from the south end of Big Lagoon north to Mussel Point (and includes the two major surf smelt fishing areas of Stone Lagoon Beach, which is in Humboldt Lagoons State Park, and Freshwater Lagoon Beach, which is in the RNSP boundary) was a much smaller figure at 74,000 pounds. In addition, a relatively small amount of fish caught along the beach within these areas may be reported as originating in block 1041, which is offshore. The total reported catch of fish from that block amounted to about 15,000 pounds in 1995.

Commercial beach fishing is subject to CDFG regulations and permitting requirements. However, the California Department of Parks and Recreation currently allows access to Gold Bluffs Beach for commercial beach fishing by permit only. CDPR-issued permits are limited to the number of existing permit holders. In 1995 there were 57 permit holders: 20 of these 57 were residents of Orick and 19 were from the Arcata/BlueLake/McKinleyville area.

Tourism Growth

It is perceived that most visitors to the region either come to see the redwoods or are passing through while traveling along the west coast between any of a number of origins and destinations, both north and south. The visitor industry is seasonal, with most travel during warmer/drier months. Also, recreational fishing is a significant draw, probably second to the redwoods as a tourism attraction for travelers with a California north coast destination.

RNSP visitor data also give an indication of level and growth of visitation to the region (refer to the following section on “RNSP Visitor Use” for more detail). Total NPS visitation data are available from 1970 shortly after the national park was established. Visitation climbed from 28,042 in 1970 to 269,717 in 1980, after which it grew more slowly to 348,458 in 1990. Visitation continued to grow to 552,464 in 1995, thereafter falling back to 427,712 visitors in 1996. CDPR visitation figures are tabulated separately. The most recent

available figures are for July 1996 through June 1997 when total visitation to the (three) state parks was recorded at 588,710 visitors.

These data reflect considerable growth, but one should understand that the data reflect the possibility of double counting the total number of people coming to the area because whenever visitors appear at more than one collection point or more than once at any given collection point they are counted.

Hotel/motel room revenues are an indicator of tourism to the region and have been estimated in the “1997 Humboldt County Economic and Demographic Almanac” (Lammers 1997). These revenues have been estimated from records on transient occupancy tax revenues. The tax rate is 8% of accommodations cost for Eureka, Fortuna, and all unincorporated areas, but 10% in Arcata. Total hotel/motel room revenues in Humboldt County amounted to \$8.2 million in 1980 (fiscal year 1980–81) growing to \$14.9 million in 1985, for an average annual rate of growth (AARG) of 10.2%. By 1990 these transient accommodations revenues had grown to \$22.6 million, for an average annual rate of growth of 2.4%. In the 1990s revenues continued to increase, but at a more modest rate with revenues at \$24.4 million by 1995 (fiscal year 1995–96), for an average annual rate of growth of 1.5%. These figures suggest that growth in tourism peaked in the early 1980s and, after more gradual increases through 1990, was slight for the period 1990–95.

Detailed information on measures of trends in tourism was not available for Del Norte County. However, a 1990 study by Grossman Design Group, *Overnight Accommodations Study, Del Norte County and Crescent City, Volume I*, lists three deterrents to tourism development in the area. The first two of these are access and weather. Freeway access is not available. Air access is limited by airport closures due to weather. Weather in the area is not as consistently good as in other California and Oregon tourist destinations. The third deterrent is the lack of adequate tourist infrastructure.

A recent consultant study reviewing the proposed Yurok lodge assessed the local market for additional lodging opportunities. The study,

Yurok Lodge Project Review and Pre-Architectural Programming/Feasibility Scoping (prepared by Market Value Planners, August 12, 1996) indicates that opportunities for roadside motel development are very limited. New construction of motor lodge facilities in Crescent City and Fortuna has caused demand for these accommodations to be spread more thinly than before. Survey data for the past five years indicate a very competitive lodging market with small increases in room rates. Current annual occupancy rates in the area are about 55%, with average room rates in the \$38–\$78 range.

The Yurok lodge study notes that the Humboldt and Del Norte County area is a major scenic route with no significant destination attractions. Distance and weather are seen as limiting visitor activity to warmer months. The study indicates that 59% of the visitors remain in the area less than one day. The average length of stay for all visitors is 2.1 days, shorter than the California average of 2.9 days.

RNSP VISITOR USE

Overview

As noted in the previous section, historical data are available from both the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation on visitation to the parks. Table 20 presents data on visitation to Redwood National Park between 1970 and 1996 based on NPS monthly public use statistics. The data refer to counts of total visits as well as visits to two popular locations (Lady Bird Johnson Grove and Redwood Creek Trail) and at the major RNSP information centers. Visitation data provided by the California Department of Parks and Recreation are presented for the period 1987 through June 1997. The latter are presented in terms of total visitors and camping visitors for each of the three state parks (see [table 20](#)). (It is important to note that with the exception of overnight visitors at campgrounds, CDPR data on visitation are not incorporated in the analysis of historical visitation trends for purposes of this joint plan. It was felt that most visitors to the state parks would be included in

TABLE 20: REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS, NPS MONTHLY PUBLIC USE STATISTICS 1970–96

Year	Total Visits	Lady Bird Johnson Grove	Redwood Creek Trail	Redwood Information Center^a	Crescent City Information Center	Hiouchi Information Center
1970	28,042	N/A	N/A	22,856	2,961	–
1971	34,500	2,031	1,490	N/A	N/A	–
1972	52,152	9,803	1,421	33,243	7,434	–
1973	105,246	14,201	1,449	41,072	9,608	–
1974	164,151	13,657	2,117	41,495	17,181	–
1975	195,503	16,157	5,219	43,547	18,583	–
1976	221,165	14,747	7,000	50,387	27,841	7,419
1977	255,372	32,473	11,776	50,006	35,316	13,846
1978	256,705	36,861	10,313	55,553	37,094	17,886
1979	240,182	29,520	14,320	44,790	24,608	14,393
1980	269,717	30,725	17,325	55,140	26,831	33,379
1981	316,409	31,241	16,503	64,749	24,958	35,058
1982	274,718	26,347	14,938	55,275	27,203	33,049
1983	277,389	23,078	14,067	50,892	26,253	40,822
1984	273,392	30,896	6,142	60,073	24,613	31,038
1985	338,830	34,156	7,175	77,056	29,233	21,836
1986	339,275	35,309	6,769	121,600	38,075	30,102
1987	365,450	33,167	6,265	140,727	25,734	36,528
1988	356,230	33,691	6,313	139,091	39,449	43,689
1989	327,058	27,479	12,792	131,555	42,924	49,737
1990	348,458	36,050	13,063	120,647	43,368	58,259
1991	366,280	36,593	11,145	137,254	54,745	52,335
1992	387,781	31,389	28,215	126,310	38,791	54,721
1993	427,365	32,974	6,736	149,616	33,641	56,921
1994	475,033	37,937	14,729	160,415	32,452	48,701
1995	552,464	42,606	12,349	66,741	45,630	47,441
1996	427,712			173,532	44,370	34,768
AARG 1970–96	11.1%	12.4%	8.5%	8.2%	11.0%	–
1976–96	–	–	–	–	–	8.0%
1986–96	2.3%	2.2%	5.6%	3.6%	1.5%	4.6%

Source: NPS monthly public use statistics, various years.

a. Before 1985 visitor information services were provided at the Orick ranger station.

the NPS visitation figures and, therefore, excluding them would avoid likely duplication. The inclusion of overnight camping visitors, however, appears warranted, as many are repeat visitors whose interests are principally in pursuing recreation opportunities available specifically within the state parks.)

It is important to note that the NPS data reflect the possibility of double counting whenever a visitor appears at more than one collection point or more than once at any given collection point. (The problem of duplication of visitor counts would be compounded if the CDPR data on visitation at state parks were included, with the exception previously noted with respect to overnight camping visitors.) Even so, the raw data from which the counts were generated have been adjusted (by dividing the totals by two) to reflect single entry into the parks and at least two stops for which counts would have been made. If more than two stops occurred, then there would be the possibility of double counting.

As shown in the table, the average annual rate of growth (AARG) calculated over the entire period is high at 11.1%. Growth during the recent 10-year period — 1986 through 1996 — was much lower at a 2.3% average annual rate of growth. Similar patterns are shown for the interior RNSP locations — Lady Bird Johnson Grove and Redwood Creek Trail — with average annual rates of growth ranging between 8.2% and 12.4% from 1970–96. Lower rates of growth occurred during the most recent 10-year period at 2.2% and 5.6% for these two locations, respectively. Growth in visitation at the information centers ranged from 8.0% to 11.0% (AARG) during 1970 through 1996 and from 1.5% to 4.6% (AARG) during the most recent 10-year period. (Note that the Hiouchi information center began operations in 1976.)

Regression analysis (a statistical technique used to establish the linear relationship between the number of visitors and time) was performed to establish the long-run growth trend in RNSP visitor use (see figure below). The results indicated that visitor use increased by about 15,400 visits for each year, which translates to an average annual rate of growth of 2.5%. The graph on the right indicates actual visits by year

and the linear trend that resulted from estimating the relationship between the variables (visits and units of time).

Table 21 presents total visitors and camping visitor attendance (which are included in the totals) for each of the three state parks as well as summations of the visitation data for the 10-year period between 1987 and 1997, based on CDPR visitor counts. As shown in the table, the counts indicating total visitors for all three state parks actually decreased over the period, or -3.5% per year on average. The rate of decrease was slightly less during the period 1990–97 at -2.3% per year. However, total camping visitors at the three parks remained essentially constant over the entire period 1987–97. Between 1990 and 1997 the number of visitors increased modestly for an average annual rate of growth of 1.8%.

As noted previously, total visitation at the parks is calculated by adding the number of visitors implied from the trend line constructed from NPS data (shown in table 20), which for 1996 amounts to about 480,000 visitors, and the number of overnight visitors at state park campgrounds (as shown in table 21) or about 145,000 visitors in 1996 (which is based on the average of the 1995–96 and 1996–97 visitor counts shown in the table). Total RNSP visitation in 1996, therefore, is estimated at 625,000 visitors. The 1996 year total is used as the initial point for developing forecasts of RNSP visitation for the purposes of projecting impacts of visitor use under the various alternatives. The RNSP visitation forecasts are presented in the “Environmental Consequences” section of this document.

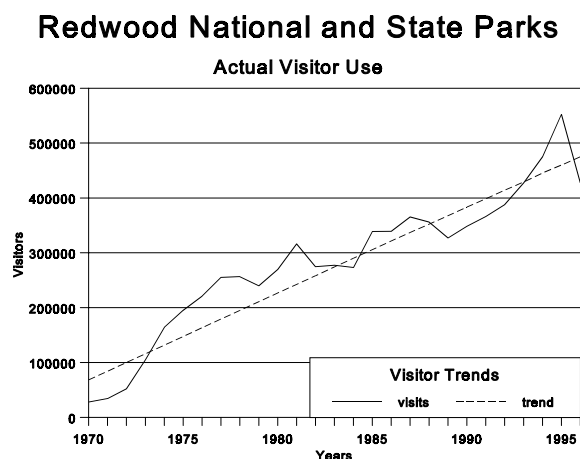


TABLE 21: REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS CDPR VISITOR STATISTICS 1987–97

Year	Total State Park Visits ^a	Total Camping Visits	Del Norte Coast Redwoods Total	Del Norte Coast Redwoods Camping	J. Smith Redwoods Total	J. Smith Redwoods Camping	Prairie Creek Redwoods Total	Prairie Creek Redwoods Camping
1987	844,833	146,752	86,515	42,648	173,648	50,114	584,670	53,990
1988	837,518	137,112	68,520	36,701	155,212	53,428	613,786	46,983
1989	778,105	141,105	57,362	35,617	170,900	51,557	549,843	53,931
1990	695,503	133,548	66,428	39,667	151,092	49,733	477,983	44,148
1991	710,162	122,685	67,677	36,753	112,847	35,259	529,638	50,673
1992	613,609	141,222	75,022	38,178	141,392	51,455	397,195	51,589
1993	766,309	148,692	83,490	43,301	182,471	54,422	500,348	50,969
1994	677,221	149,436	102,381	49,701	195,520	53,643	379,320	46,092
1995/96	538,530	138,754	70,685	29,184	180,509	51,960	287,336	57,610
1996/97	588,710	151,389	98,405	36,427	305,048	51,853	185,257	63,109
AARG: 1987-94	-3.1%	0.3%	2.4%	2.2%	1.7%	1.0%	-6.0%	-1.7%
1987-97	-3.5%	0.3%	1.3%	-1.6%	5.8%	0.3%	-10.9%	1.6%
1990-97	-2.3%	1.8%	5.8%	-1.2%	10.6%	0.6%	-12.7%	5.2%

SOURCE: California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Visitor Attendance for North Redwood Parks, Period January 1987 through June 1995 (special computer run); FY Total Visitor Attendance Reports July 1995—June 1996 and July 1996—June 1997.

a. Visitor counts beginning 1995/96 run from July 1 through June 30; visitor counts for previous years reflect annual calendar totals.

Freshwater Spit Users

Numerous RV users and tent campers overnight at Freshwater Spit at the south end of Redwood National and State Parks. Although most stay overnight or for a few days at a time, during the summer months and especially during periods when beach fishing is excellent many stay for a week or longer. NPS regulations prohibit stays longer than 15 days for a single stay and 30 days total in a calendar year.

Information collected by NPS volunteers in an informal survey during the month of August 1996 on a Thursday (August 22) and a Sunday (August 25) provided useful insights regarding visitor use at Freshwater Spit. The vehicle count for Thursday stood at 70 vehicles, including

RVs, campers, vehicles with trailers, and fifth-wheelers, increasing to approximately 80 vehicles on Sunday; however, there were 15–20 newcomers, including replacements for those who were at the spit on Thursday and subsequently departed. With an average of 2.2 persons per vehicle, there were 150–175 visitors at Freshwater Spit during the times indicated. (Counts of 125 vehicles or more have been made at peak times.) The vehicle counts and visitor figures are probably about average for the summer months.

Occupants of about one-third of the vehicles were contacted by the volunteers, and information was elicited on a variety of questions regarding trip origin; purpose of stay; length of stay; frequency of visits; and the amount and

distribution of purchases made by community within the region. Most people contacted (about two-thirds) were residents of southern California. Also, about two-thirds of the people contacted were traveling in a southbound direction via U.S. Highway 101 from Oregon or U.S. Highway 299 from northern California. The remainder were northbound on U.S. Highway 101. The primary reasons given for stopping at the spit were: free camping, convenient to the parks, and miscellaneous (with family gatherings and beach fishing figuring prominently in the decision to stop). If unable to remain overnight at Freshwater Spit, about a quarter would not stop in the area; a slightly lower share would stay at a campground in Orick if space were available; and the remainder would seek campground space at other locations in the vicinity.

Overnight stays ranged from one to 21 nights, and the average length of stays at Freshwater Spit amounted to 6.7 days. The majority of persons contacted (about 75%) had been to Freshwater Spit on previous occasions. They indicated an average of 5.2 prior visits. Purchases made by Freshwater Spit users were for motor fuel, groceries and other provisions, propane gas, sporting equipment and amusements, handicrafts and gifts, books and maps, and RV holding tank pumpout. Average expenditures made by visitors during the course of their stays amounted to \$155. Slightly more than half of the purchases were for groceries and other provisions. Motor fuel purchases contributed about one-quarter of the total, with the remainder comprised of purchases of sporting goods and equipment at 7%, propane gas at 6%, and handicrafts at 5%. Tank pumpout expenditures were minor at about 3% of total purchases. The town of Orick accounted for half of the total purchases.

The share of purchases made by Freshwater Spit users in Arcata/Eureka was also substantial at 20% of the total. McKinleyville and Trinidad accounted for 13% and 12%, respectively. The town of Klamath and Crescent City received small relative shares at 4% and 2%, respectively, of the total purchases.

RV camping at Freshwater Spit represents a sizable component of total RV camping activity

in the RNSP vicinity. Between Trinidad in the south and Klamath/Requa turnoff in the north, there are about 19 private RV campgrounds with approximately 872 spaces with RV hookups and 383 tent sites available for visitors. This is considered to be in the market service area in which many Freshwater Spit users could obtain services and find desirable amenities in the event that space were unavailable at that location. Telephone contacts were made with most of the RV campground operators in an effort to determine the available capacity and occupancy rates. The telephone interviews took place in October 1997. The information on capacity and occupancy refers to conditions in 1997.

Eight of the campgrounds are in the Trinidad area with 329 RV spaces with hookups and 72 tent sites. During the peak summer season occupancy is estimated by the campground operators at about 70%. Only one RV campground is available in Orick, with a modest number of spaces that are fully occupied during the summer. There are 10 RV campgrounds in the Klamath area (four recently closed due to flood damage) with about 530 RV spaces with hookups and 311 tent sites. During the summer occupancy is about two-thirds of capacity. For all of the RV campgrounds the fall, winter, and spring seasons (with the exception of several days during the earlier part of September and latter part of May) occupancy rates are very low — ranging from zero (for facilities that are closed) to about 25% of capacity.

AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES

Lands in Redwood National and State Parks include part of ancestral territories of three tribal groups — the Tolowa, the Yurok, and the Chilula. The Chilula no longer exist as an organized tribe; the remnants became part of the Hupa, who now live east of the parks. There are eight American Indian governments operating in the general vicinity of the parks: the Yurok Tribe, whose aboriginal territory includes 85% of RNSP lands, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Smith River Rancheria of California, the Elk Valley Rancheria of California, the Tolowa Nation, the Coast Indian Community of Yurok Indians of the Resighini Rancheria, Big Lagoon

Rancheria of Smith River Indians, and Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria. Of these, one, the Tolowa Nation, is not federally recognized.

The Yurok Tribe is associated with the Yurok Indian Reservation, located in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The reservation is bisected by the Klamath River and extends about 1 mile on each side between the confluence of the Klamath River and the Trinity River and the Klamath's mouth on the Pacific Coast, a distance of about 40 miles. The coastal part of the reservation overlaps with Redwood National and State Parks. According to the *Yurok Overall Economic Development Plan, Fiscal Year 1996-97*, the reservation land base consists of 56,903 acres of which the overwhelming majority (43,008 acres or 75%) is in fee ownership by others. Tribal and allotted acreage totals 13,640 acres. These acreages will increase through time as the tribe continues to buy back property.

Other public and fractionated ownership amounts to only 255 acres. The Yurok Tribe has an enrollment (nondeceased) of about 3,475 persons, of which 2,545 are in the so-called prime service area and 932 outside. The 1990 census places 1,347 American Indians on the Yurok Reservation at the time of the census. The total labor force in 1996 was given in the plan as 1,683 workers with only 421 employed and 912 unemployed for an unemployment rate of 54%. Tribal business enterprises indicated included forestry and other timber-sales related, commercial fisheries, Salmon Festival, and Energy Trust Fund.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Information on public services and infrastructure is provided for several local government entities in the Redwood National and State Parks region. Most information is for Crescent City in Del Norte County at the northern portion of Redwood National and State Parks and the cities of Arcata and Trinidad in Humboldt County near the southern end of the parks. Additional information is presented on the county governments because RNSP lands and most RNSP-related facilities are in

unincorporated portions of both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Unfortunately detailed information on the three communities that are considered to be principally affected by RNSP operations and visitor activities, Orick in Humboldt County and Klamath and Hiouchi in Del Norte County, is unavailable because they are in unincorporated areas of the counties. Nonetheless, an effort is made to characterize these areas in terms of public and private services available to visitors, based on interviews conducted in the area and observation of local conditions.

Humboldt County

The Humboldt County seat is in Eureka. The Sheriff's Department has 99 positions. The ratio of uniformed police protection officers per 1,000 population for the county was about 1.8 in 1995. Ambulance service in the area is provided by three companies. There are five hospitals in the county. Water and sewer facilities in unincorporated areas are provided by community districts as well as private systems.

Humboldt County has a zoning ordinance with numerous zoning categories. For instance, Humboldt County has inland zones for timberland preserve, forestry-recreation, two agricultural classes, several residential classes (suburban, one family, two family, multiple family, and apartment-professional), several commercial/business/industrial classes, and several recreation classes. The coastal zones include residential (multiple family, mixed, single family, and rural residential), public facility (with separate urban and rural designations), public recreation, agriculture exclusive, coastal commercial timberland, timberland production, natural resources, and several classes of commercial (including commercial recreation) and industrial lands.

Residential building permits issued by Humboldt County government in 1995 amounted to 506 units (Lammers 1997), which was the lowest since 1984. In 1980 the figure was 377 units with the peak year occurring in 1990 at 875 units. Of the permits issued in 1995, 406 were single-family units and 100 were multifamily units.

There are 32 school districts in Humboldt County. Total enrollment for all districts amounted to 22,104 pupils in the 1996–97 school-year. Higher education is provided in the county by Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods. The number of students enrolled at the university was 7,686 in 1996; for the college (Eureka campus only) the enrollment was 4,881 students. (Information from Humboldt County Office of Education, fax communication, February 14, 1997.)

Total public spending by Humboldt County for fiscal year 1996–97 was budgeted at \$158.9 million. The largest source of revenue is intergovernment, namely, state and federal government distributions and subventions at \$107.9 million. Federal payments in lieu of tax contributions were budgeted at \$530,059 in fiscal year 1996–97. These payments are to compensate local governments for lost tax revenue due to federal land acquisition programs. Taxes and service charges are the next largest revenue sources at \$19.9 million and \$13.9 million, respectively. The major source of tax revenue is the property tax. Tax collections from the property base were budgeted at \$10.7 million, which represents about half of the total county tax revenues. The basic sales tax is the next largest revenue source at \$2.2 million budgeted for the 1996–97 fiscal year. The transient occupancy tax and sales taxes on transportation added \$2.0 million to the total generated from sales transactions.

There are numerous special districts under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors. These include three fire districts and two flood and drainage districts. In addition there are several other special districts, including the Orick Community Services Water District, that are governed through locally elected boards.

There are U.S. Coast Guard operations in Eureka and Crescent City that handle most of the ocean rescues and emergency evacuations from the parks. The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station at the Eureka-Arcata airport operates helicopters that are used for land and ocean rescues.

City of Arcata

Arcata is about 25 miles south of Redwood National and State Parks. The Arcata-Eureka Airport is about 8 miles north of the city. As home of Humboldt State University (the northernmost branch of the California State University system), the city has the ambience of a cultural center. The Arcata Plaza provides a central focus to the city with numerous historic buildings, interesting shops, restaurants, etc.

The city's police department has 30 full-time and 11 part-time paid uniformed and nonuniformed personnel and 27 volunteers and reserve officers. The fire department has 14 paid and 48 volunteer firefighters. Ambulance services are provided by a private company that operates four ambulances, with two ambulances always on duty. The company has a staff of 18 — 15 are paramedics and three are emergency medical technicians. The company provides service beyond the city limits, including the area north to the Humboldt County border along U.S. Highway 101. The Mad River Community Hospital is in Arcata.

According to an information brochure produced by the Arcata Chamber of Commerce titled *Arcata, On California's Scenic Redwood Coast*, there are three full service hotels, seven motels, three bed-and-breakfast establishments, one lodge, and three RV parks in the area (including McKinleyville and Trinidad). Twenty-eight restaurants are also listed. Both lodging accommodations and restaurants are low- to medium-priced.

City of Trinidad

Trinidad is about 10 miles north of Arcata. The principal historical basis for the city is fishing. It is located at a natural harbor that provides an excellent place to launch fishing vessels and a refuge from storms. The beautiful location and continuing presence of fishing is also an attraction for artists and tourists. The city has a small police department with a salaried full-time chief and three reserve officers. The fire department has a chief and an assistant on stipend and six to seven volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. The

department has one fire engine and one ambulance.

Two bed-and-breakfast operations in town provide accommodations to visitors; both cater to high-end of the lodging market for the region. There is also a motel offering medium-priced rooms. There are at least 11 other lodging places in and near Trinidad.

The Orick Community

The Orick community is at the south end of Redwood National and State Parks about 25 miles north of Arcata on U.S. 101. The community is in an unincorporated portion of Humboldt County. Employers in Orick include the Arcata Redwood Company, which recently operated a single shift at its lumber mill; a construction company; a logging truck company; and various tourism-related establishments, including several redwood burl and wood carvers, five motels, four restaurant/cafe/tavern establishments, an RV park, three gas stations, an assortment of visitor attractions, and several gift or curiosity shops. There is also a K-8 elementary school (with 67 pupils enrolled for the 1996–97 school year), four churches, a community hall, and a two-bay fire hall. The latter shelters three fire vehicles and one emergency medical services van. Municipal services are provided by the Orick Community Services Water District and Orick Volunteer Fire Department and by Humboldt County.

Orick is used extensively by travelers passing through the area as a place to purchase fuel and provisions (especially by RV users). The town's merchants also benefit from purchases made by RV users and campers at Freshwater Spit, which is a few miles south of town at the southern entrance of Redwood National and State Parks. As noted above, during the summer there are 70 or more campers, vehicles with trailers, and fifth wheelers at Freshwater Spit; most remain for several days (some as long as two weeks). A high proportion (perhaps 50%) of the people making overnight stays at Freshwater Spit purchase goods and services in Orick.

Del Norte County

The Del Norte County seat is in Crescent City. The Sheriff's Department has 42 positions excluding the jail unit. The ratio of uniformed police protection officers per 1,000 population for the county was about 1.0 in 1995. Ambulance service is provided by a private company in Crescent City. There are six ambulances. There is one hospital, Sutter Coast Hospital, and a clinic, Center Coast Health Care, which offer urgent care services in the county.

Water and sewer facilities in unincorporated areas are provided by community districts and private systems. There are four fire districts in the county including the Klamath, Fort Dick, Crescent, and Smith River Fire Protection Districts. According to the *1996/1997 Del Norte County Overall Economic Development Program*, the county government operates the only solid waste landfill in the county. This system is operated in conjunction with transfer stations in Klamath and Gasquet. The landfill is currently at capacity and under a cease and desist order by the Water Quality Control Board. The problem is being addressed by the city of Crescent City and Del Norte County under a joint powers agreement.

Del Norte County has a zoning ordinance with various zoning designations for coastal and noncoastal areas. For instance, the county has noncoastal zones for public ownership, timberland preserve, several agricultural classes, numerous residential classes, several commercial/business/ industrial classes, and several recreation classes. Substantial portions of the county is in public ownership, in forest recreation status, and in timberland preserve status. Most residential land is rural in character.

There were 97 residential building permits issued by the Del Norte County government in 1995. Of the permits issued, 55 were single-family units and 42 were multifamily units.

Del Norte County has a unified school district. Total enrollment for the district amounted to 5,478 pupils in the 1996–97 school-year (Humboldt County Office of Education provided pupil counts for both Del Norte and Humboldt Counties via fax, February 14, 1997).

Higher education is provided in the county at the College of the Redwoods at the Crescent City Campus.

Total spending by Del Norte County for fiscal year 1996–97 was budgeted at \$40.5 million. The largest source of revenue is intergovernment, namely state and federal government distributions at \$21.7 million. Federal payments in lieu of taxes were budgeted at \$43,100 in fiscal year 1996–97. Taxes and service charges are the next largest revenue sources at \$6.1 million and \$4.9 million, respectively. The major source of tax revenues is the sales tax at \$3.8 million, followed by the property tax at \$1.8 million.

Similar to Humboldt County, there are several special districts under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors. These include four county service area bond redemption and operating fund districts, one street bond redemption district, four flood control districts, and the Klamath Community Service District. In addition there are numerous special districts governed through locally elected boards.

Crescent City

As noted in the section on population, Crescent City has an estimated population of 8,305 including 4,408 inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison, which is 7 miles north of town. (The area where the prison is has been annexed by the city, although it is not contiguous with the main incorporated area.)

The Crescent City Fire Department has a paid chief and 25 volunteers, and the Crescent Fire Protection District has a paid chief and 30 paid personnel. This department serves the city and an area 5 miles north of the city limits. The city has 16 police department personnel.

Crescent City relies on rainwater collectors and the Smith River for water supply. Water use relies on a 10-inch line and a 1 million gallon storage tank and averages about 2.5 million gallons per day. On some days there are shortages. The city is planning to upgrade to a 24-inch line and a 3 million gallon storage tank, which will double system capacity. Water is currently being restricted to a few hookups a

year. The city also operates a sewer utility, which is adequate to handle current needs, although during some periods the system operates at or above its biological capacity. The system has a dry weather flow capacity of 1.89 million gallons per day.

The nearest regional airport serving Crescent City is the Eureka-Arcata Airport near McKinleyville, about 50 miles south on U.S. Highway 101. A small general aviation airport — Del Norte County Airport — is northwest of the city, with some commuter air service connections to Arcata.

A wide variety of commercial services include privately operated facilities such as restaurants, grocery stores, hotels/motels, etc., which are used by visitors and in some cases by residents. According to *The Key to Del Norte County*, May 18, 1996 (a newspaper devoted to information on visitor services) there were 952 motel rooms, 30 hostel beds, 2,455 privately owned RV sites, 298 privately owned tent sites, and 362 RV and tent sites in public parks in Del Norte County, most of which were in Crescent City.

The Hiouchi Community

The Hiouchi community is about 10 miles east of Crescent City at the northern end of Redwood National and State Parks next to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. The community is in unincorporated Del Norte County on both sides of the Smith River, although most development is along U.S. Highway 199 on the north bank of the river. The main built-up area of Hiouchi is just east of the NPS Hiouchi information center along Highway 199 and consists of two RV parks including one RV resort, a gas station/market, a gift shop, a redwood burl seller, a river rafting operation, a motel, and a cafe. The Smith River Fire District has a two-bay fire station at this location.

The Klamath Community

Near the coast, the Klamath community is outside the RNSP boundaries about midway through the parks near the mouth of the Klamath River, about 20 miles south of Crescent City along U.S. Highway 101. In unincorporated Del Norte County, the Klamath area has a strong

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

American Indian presence and much of the Klamath community is within Yurok Reservation boundaries.

Most of the built-up area of the Klamath community is on the north side of the Klamath River. Near the river on the north side of the bridge off of U.S. Highway 101 there is a large RV park and campground, cafe, gas station, outboard motor service facility, and a well-known tourist attraction. Within the nearby small residential/commercial area there is a church, shopping center (closed for business), cafe, motel, automatic laundry services, U.S. post office, an RV park, a Bureau of Indian Affairs (Law Enforcement Services) office, Klamath Senior Center, and 20+ houses. About 1 mile farther north on U.S. Highway 101 there

is a smoke house, jet boat tour facilities, a redwood burl seller, a trading post, and two RV parks. Continuing further north, there are two RV parks, two motels, a gas station, a market/hardware store, a cafe, and a church. A Yurok tribal office is also located in this area. Finally, a major privately owned visitor attraction and motel restaurant (Trees of Mystery) is further north on U.S. Highway 101. Fire protection and community services are provided to the Klamath community by the Klamath Fire Protection District and Klamath Community Services District.